National Service 101

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CNCS California State Office
About CNCS…

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a Federal Agency that provides opportunities for individuals of all ages and backgrounds to address vital community needs through service.
Participation…

CNCS engages four million Americans in result-driven service each year including:

- 75,000 AmeriCorps members,
- 492,000 Senior Corps volunteers,
- 1.1 million Learn and Serve America students, and
- 2.2 million additional community volunteers mobilized and managed through the agency’s programs.
AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps*USA
AmeriCorps*NCCC
AmeriCorps*VISTA
• Foster Grandparents are low-income individuals, age 60 or over, who serve one-on-one with children and young people with special needs.

• Foster Grandparents serve 15 or more hours a week in schools, hospitals, juvenile correctional institutions, Head Start centers or anywhere else where there are children in need.

• These service sites are called stations.

• Foster Grandparents also serve as mentors to teen mothers, disadvantaged youth and children of inmates.

• Foster Grandparents receive an hourly stipend of $2.65 an hour.
Senior Companions are low-income individuals, age 60 or over who serve one-on-one with frail elderly and disabled adults.

Senior Companions serve 15 or more hours a week in their clients’ private homes, Adult Day Care Centers, Senior Centers or other locations where there are frail elders in need.

They receive an hourly stipend of $2.65.
RSVP is a network of close to 500,000 individuals age 55 or over who perform a wide range of volunteer services that meet community needs.

RSVP is one of the largest volunteer efforts in the nation.

RSVP offers a full range of volunteer opportunities with thousands of local and national organizations.

Unlike FGP and SCP volunteers, RSVP volunteers do not receive a stipend and can volunteer anywhere from four to forty hours per week.

With RSVP, volunteers choose how and where they want to serve and for what amount of time.

RSVP volunteers tutor children, help organize neighborhood watch programs, help feed the elderly and homeless, and just help community organizations operate more efficiently.
Local nonprofit organizations and public agencies receive grants from CNCS to sponsor and operate their FGP, SCP and RSVP programs.

Applications for new Senior Corps grants are accepted only when funding is available.

Senior Corps will notify the public when new grant applications are being accepted by posting a notice at www.grants.gov and www.nationalservice.gov.

Local partners can also create roles and host Senior Corps volunteers in their organizations by becoming a Volunteer Station with an existing Senior Corps Program.
Not a grant program – we provide people power!
• For 40 years, AmeriCorps*VISTA has been helping bring communities and individuals out of poverty.

• Today, nearly 6,000 AmeriCorps*VISTA members serve in hundreds of nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout the country.

• AmeriCorps*VISTA members help organizations fight illiteracy, support youth aging out of foster care, increase job training opportunities, bridge the digital divide and much more.

• All projects focus on building permanent infrastructure in organizations to help them more effectively bring individuals and communities out of poverty.
• VISTA members serve 40 hours per week in capacity building roles.

• Projects often focus on the following types of activities:
  - Resource Development (grant writing and fundraising)
  - Volunteer Generation
  - Outreach and Marketing
  - Building Partnerships and Collaborations
  - Program Development

• VISTA members may not provide direct services to clients or perform the regular work of agency staff.
How to Apply to Become a VISTA Project Sponsor

- Visit our website [www.americorps.gov/vista](http://www.americorps.gov/vista)

- Contact the CNCS CA State Office at ca@cns.gov to request AmeriCorps*VISTA concept paper application guidance.

- The CNCS CA State Office will provide technical assistance during the application process.

- Applications are typically reviewed on a Monthly basis. Should hear from the State Office within 60 days of your submission.
Program Development Priority Areas

The CA State Office is particularly interested in projects that address one or more of the following Program Priority areas:

- Seniors in Poverty
- Bridging the Digital Divide
- Ex-offender Mentoring/Prisoner Re-entry
- Individual Asset Development Programs
- Improving Academic Performance
- After School Programming
- Fostering a College Bound Culture in Low Income Communities
VISTA Project Sponsor “Match”

Project sponsors are not required to provide a financial match, but must be able to direct the project, supervise the members, and provide necessary administrative support to complete the goals and objectives of the project.

Projects should provide:

- On-Site Orientation and Training
- Material Support-supplies
- Daily Supervision, Community Support
- On-Assignment Transportation reimbursement
- Projects may “cost share” - pay living allowance for member(s).
AmeriCorps*State works with Governor-appointed State Service Commissions to provide grants to non-government and government entities to sponsor service programs.

The California State Service Commission was established in 1994 by Executive Order to administer AmeriCorps*State funding within California.

California’s State Commission is now called CaliforniaVolunteers and is led by Karen Baker, the nation’s first state cabinet-level Secretary of Service and Volunteering.

Maria Shriver, the First Lady of California, serves as the honorary chair of CaliforniaVolunteers.
• AmeriCorps*State grantees use their grants to engage AmeriCorps members in service to help meet critical community needs in education, public safety, health, disaster preparedness and response and the environment.

• AmeriCorps*State programs engage AmeriCorps members in direct service to address unmet community needs.

• Programs design service activities for a team of members serving full-time or part-time for one year.

• Programs are responsible for recruiting, placing, and training AmeriCorps members.
AmeriCorps Grant Budget

- Member Support Costs - living allowance and benefits;
- Other Member Support Costs - training and education;
- Staff - salaries, benefits, training;
- Other Operating Costs - travel, supplies, other;
- Evaluation;
- Administration.

- Grants require a community match = 24%
2008-2009 AmeriCorps Portfolio

- 52 programs
- Approximately $26 million in total program funding
- Support over 4,000 service opportunities

Issue areas:
- Education: 42 percent
- Health & Other Human Needs: 41 percent
- Environment: 7 percent
- Public Safety: 10 percent
How to Apply for an Americorps Grant

Look for “AmeriCorps Funding 411” posting early fall 2009 at www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org

Will provide the following information:

- Request for Applications (RFA)
- Forms and Instructions
- Budget and Budget Narrative
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Training Curriculum
- Other resources
National Civilian Community Corps

Not a grant program – we provide people power!
AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women ages 18–24.

Alongside the community and Sponsor Organization, members complete service projects within an assigned region.

Service projects last from six to eight weeks, address critical needs in education, public safety, the environment and other unmet needs.

NCCC members construct and rehabilitate low-income housing, respond to disasters, clean up streams, help communities develop emergency plans, tutor students and address countless other local needs.
National Civilian Community Corps

Project Sponsor Requirements

- Propose meaningful work that meets compelling community needs;
- Provide Housing (if 90 miles or more from Campus);
- Introduction and orientation to the organization and community;
- Project-specific training (e.g., power tools, tutoring skills);
- Site supervision;
National Civilian Community Corps

Who may apply to host an NCCC team?

- Faith and Community-based organizations
- National nonprofits
- Schools
- Cities and towns
- National and state parks
- Indian tribes

- Sponsoring organizations should submit a project Concept Form and Application to the regional campus that covers that organization’s state.

- The campus will provide assistance in completing the application, developing a work plan, and preparing the project sponsor for the arrival of the AmeriCorps*NCCC team.
NCCC Application Process

- Complete a Project Concept Form

- If invited by NCCC, complete a Full Project APPLICATION

- Project Concept Form & Project applications are available online at www.americorps.gov/nccc or through the Regional Program Office.

- Project application should be submitted 2 to 4 months prior to the preferred start date of the project.

- Generally with 30 days of submission, the regional Program Office will notify the organization of its status and the next steps in the application process.
The project application may be sent via email, mail or fax to the regional Program Office.

**NCCC Pacific Region**
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States Served: AK, CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY, Pacific Territories
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009
Summary of Recovery Act Appropriations

AmeriCorps State and National  $89,000,000
AmeriCorps VISTA  $65,000,000
National Service Trust  $40,000,000
Salaries and Expenses  $6,000,000
Office of Inspector General*  $1,000,000

Total Recovery Act Funding  $201,000,000

In CA VISTA will place approximately 150 additional VISTA members with ARRA funds. Recovery placements have all been allocated.

AmeriCorps*State - Applications utilizing ARRA funds were limited to existing California Volunteers AmeriCorps grantees only.
Selected Highlights of Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009  
(Serve America Act)

- The Serve America Act reauthorizes and expands national service programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency created in 1993.

- Sets AmeriCorps on a path from 75,000 positions annually to 250,000 by 2017, with a focus on education, health, clean energy, veterans, economic opportunity and other national priorities.

- Authorizes a Silver Scholars program, under which individuals 55 and older who perform 350 hours of service receive a $1,000 education award. Also permits individuals age 55 and older to transfer their education award to a child or grandchild.

- Creates a Social Innovation Fund to expand proven initiatives and provide seed funding for experimental initiatives, leveraging Federal dollars to identify and grow ideas that are addressing our most intractable community problems.

- Establishes a Volunteer Generation Fund to award grants to states and nonprofits to recruit, manage, and support volunteers and strengthen the nation’s volunteer infrastructure.

- Authorizes Nonprofit Capacity Building grants to provide organizational development assistance to small and mid-size nonprofit organizations.
Questions?
For more information
General about all CNCS programs
www.nationalservice.gov

CalServe Initiative (Learn & Serve K-12)
http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/sl

12 Regions of the Service-Learning Network
http://www.yscal.org/inyourarea/intro.html

Learn & Serve Higher Education and Community-based
www.learnandserve.gov

AmeriCorps*NCCC
http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/apply/nccc.asp

California Volunteers Resources
www.CaliforniaVolunteers.ca.org

AmeriCorps*VISTA
http://www.americorps.org/about/programs/vista.asp or ca@cns.gov
or call 310.235.7421

AmeriCorps National Direct Grants
http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/apply/national.asp
americorpsnational@cns.gov or call 202.606.7508

Senior Corps (if grant funds are available)
www.grants.gov or www.nationalservice.org or ca@cns.gov
For more information on CNCS programs please visit [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)

Thank you.